



B I O G R A P H Y

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Vincent Anthony, Barbara and Bill Wyly Executive Director, is the founder and President of the Board of the Center for Puppetry Arts and has served as its Executive Director since its inception in 1978. He began his career as a puppeteer for Nicolo Marionettes in New York, and was founder and director of the Vagabond Marionettes in Atlanta. Under Anthony's leadership, the Center has received nine Citations of Excellence from UNIMA-USA, the United States branch of Union Internationale de la Marionnette, the international organization for the art of puppetry. In 1982, Anthony received the Governor's Award in the Arts. He has served on several review panels for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Georgia Council for the Arts, and is past president of the national association, Puppeteers of America. In addition, he has served as a member of the board of directors for many arts groups, both locally and nationally, including the Arts Festival of Atlanta, the Arts Advisory Board for Region Four of the General Service Administration, and the Advisory Council for the Cultural Olympiad of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG). Currently, he is the General Secretary of UNIMA-USA, the American branch of Union Internationale de la Marionnette.

Bobby Box, Associate Producer since 1996, attended Arkansas State University where he graduated in 1980 with a B.A. in dramatic arts. Box also holds a B.A. in psychology from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He received his M.A. in speech communications/theater from Bowling Green State University in 1984. Box taught Speech Communications for a year at the Atlanta campus of Mercer University. He began his puppetry career with Piccadilly Puppets of Decatur, Ga., where he stayed for seven years performing and co-writing such shows as *Upstream, Downstream; Hurray for Holidays; The Night Before Christmas; Garden Party*; and the award-winning *Body Shop*. From 1984 to 1991, Box also acted in other theaters, such as The Theatrical Outfit, 7 Stages and Acme Theatre, and performed at the Center in both *Xperimental Puppetry Theater* and other shows in the New Directions Series. Box became a resident puppeteer at the Center in 1991, appearing in many Family Series shows and adult shows. Box has developed solo adult pieces (*Towing the Line; The Mighty Cattywhompus*) and directed Family Series shows (*The Shoemaker & the Elves; The Velveteen Rabbit; Charlotte's Web; Winnie-the-Pooh*), as well as shows targeted for teens and adults (*A Midnight Dreary; Don Quixote; A Midsummer Night's Dream; Live Faust, Die Young!*). Box has performed at the Wolftrap Children's Festival in Washington, DC, and Puppeteers of America Festivals in Boston, Cincinnati, Vancouver, Mobile, Toledo and West Palm Beach. In 2003, he directed *The Velveteen Rabbit*, performed in Cantonese, at the Ming Re Theatre in China. In January of 2006, his production of *Anne Frank: Within & Without* premiered at the Center and received acclaim from CNN, *The New York Times*, *Haartez* newspaper in Tel Aviv, Israel, among others.

Patty Petrey Dees, Distance Learning Program Director, established the Center for Puppetry Arts' IVC studio in 1998. Since that time, Ms. Dees has worked with teachers to develop dynamic, hands-on IVC programs that adhere to state and national standards in fine arts, sciences, language arts, and social studies. Dees served as an artist-in-residence, Outreach Coordinator, and Education Director for the Center prior to her distance learning director position. Most recently, she directed the Center's transition off the state network to an IP and ISDN based system allowing for direct connections across the nation and beyond. Her IVC career is preceded by 14 years of non-profit arts in education work at the Mint Museum of Art, Museum of the New South and California Language Institute in Kitakyushu, Japan. She is a member of the National Distance Learning Association and International Society for Educational Communications and Technology. She currently serves on the Content Provider Advisory Board for the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration.

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Susan Kinney, Museum Manager, has coordinated, implemented and maintained nine major exhibits for the Center's special exhibit gallery during her six years on staff, and curated two of them. She also curated, installed and maintained nine smaller exhibits at the Center and two off-site exhibits at WSB-TV and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Among the exhibits curated by Ms. Kinney are *Fool's Fire: The Genius of Julie Taymor*, *Basil Milovsoroff: 21st Century Artist* and *1996 Revisited: Puppets of Olympic Proportions*. A past President and Treasurer of the Atlanta Puppetry Guild, she is currently the Southeast Regional Director for Puppeteers of America. She is also a member of the American Association of Museums, American Association of Museum Volunteers, Southeast Museum Conference and UNIMA-USA.

Liz Lee, Producer, has an extensive career in production and lighting design throughout Georgia and the Southeast. She was the Center's first Production Manager in 1978, and has continued to work with the Center as resident lighting designer since 1983. In addition to her work at the Center, Ms. Lee is a freelance lighting designer. She was the lighting designer for the first Henson International Festival of Puppet Theater. She has worked for the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, the Georgia Shakespeare Festival, Virginia Stage Company, Northlight Theater, and the Alliance Theater, among others. In addition, she was production manager for Atlanta Arts Festival as well as First Night Atlanta. Lee has a B.A. in Theater Arts from Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Ga.

Alan Louis, Director of Museum & Education Programs, holds a B.A. in Anthropology (magna cum laude) and a M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education, both from Georgia State University. In 1999, he was chosen by the Japanese government for a three-week study trip to Tokyo as a participant in the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program. Louis taught gifted children (K-5) for four years at Tull C. Waters Elementary in Atlanta. Prior to that, he was a puppeteer in residence at the Center for Puppetry Arts as well as a performer for several of the Center's U.S. tours (*The Wizard of Oz*, *The Jungle Book*, *Hansel and Gretel*). As a volunteer puppeteer, he performed in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996. He has taught puppetry workshops in the U.S. and Eastern Europe.

Jon Ludwig, Associate Artistic Director, is an accomplished performer, director and theater designer who has worked in Atlanta, New York and abroad. He was named a member of The Directors Guild of America for direction of *The Book of Pooh*. He is also a member of ASCAP. At the Center, he has written and directed 10 distinctive shows for the Family Series (including *Beauty & the Beast*, *Dinosaurs*, *Plant Doctors*, *Weather Rocks!*) that educate and appeal to children and adults. Ludwig is recognized as an innovator in the field of adult puppetry theater. In 1997, he was the featured guest artist at the National Puppetry Conference at Eugene O'Neill Theater Center where he presented a new production, *Home*. His adaptation of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, commissioned and produced for the 1996 Olympic Arts Festival, received national and international acclaim and was heralded as one of the highlights of the Festival by art critics, including *Newsweek* magazine. Ludwig has also collaborated with national and international artists. He worked with Petr Matasek from the Czech Republic Theater DRAK on the adult production, *FIRE!*, which premiered at the Center in June 1995 and played again in July 1999. *Kwaidan*, created with Chinese-American director Ping Chong and Mitsuru Ishii of Japan, proved to be a critical and popular success during its 1998 U.S. tour, 1999 six-week tour of Japan and 2000 sold-out run in London. His adult piece, *Safe as Milk*, has been performed throughout the U.S. and was staged in 1994 at P.S. 122 in New York as part of the Jim Henson Foundation's International Festival of Puppet Theater. *Avanti, Da Vinci! The Secret Adventures of Leonardo da Vinci*, which Ludwig wrote and directed with Jason von Hinezmeyer, recently sold out its Atlanta premiere and then traveled to the Slovak Republic, where it became the first U.S. production to be performed at the Bábkarska Bystrica Puppetry Festival. In children's television, Ludwig wrote, designed and puppeteered the shadow puppet segments for the Disney Channel/Henson Production show *Bear in the Big Blue House*. He also puppeteered in the Disney Channel's *The Book of Pooh*. In 2005, along with Mitchell Kriegman and Dean Gordon, Ludwig received an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Director for the *Book of Pooh* episode *The Great Honey Pot/Paging Piglet*.

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Lisa Rhodes, Administrative Director, is second in command of the organization. She oversees the Center's financial, personnel, administrative and facilities operations and consults with the Executive Director on organizational management and programming issues. She graduated from Ohio State University in 1984 with a B.A. in English. She joined the Center at that time to become a short-term puppeteer with the traveling production of *The Wizard of Oz*, but stayed on to install museum exhibits, build sets and sew costumes. She soon became the part-time bookkeeper before being promoted to Administrative Director. Since 1985, Ms. Rhodes has participated in numerous *Xperimental Puppetry Theater* (XPT) pieces, including "The Blotter," a shadow puppet piece based on a local newspaper's column. In 1992, Rhodes performed the one-person adult show, *By a Length of Rope*; the piece, performed in French, was featured as part of the Southeast Regional Festival of Puppeteers of America in Charleston, S.C. Rhodes served two terms as treasurer of UNIMA-USA, the North American branch of the international puppetry organization. Currently, she is controller of UNIMA-USA and business manager for the upcoming Puppeteers of America national festival, Puppet Rampage 2007.

Stacy Shaw, Director of Marketing and Development, joined the Center in January of 2006. She was most recently the Director of Marketing and Communications/Co-Director of the M.F.A. Program in Theatre Management at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival for the last three years. Prior to this Ms. Shaw was the Director of the M.F.A. Program in Theatre Management at the University of Alabama, the Director of the Undergraduate Program in Arts Administration for the College of Charleston, Managing Director of the Highlands Playhouse, the Associate Managing Director of Virginia Stage Company, Director of Marketing for the Piccolo Spoleto Festival, Employee Relations Manager for Avis Rent A Car, and a consultant to a variety of arts organizations including the Spoleto Festival, USA. She received her M.F.A. in Theatre Management from Virginia Tech and her B.A. from Goucher College.

Jason von Hinezmeyer, Resident Puppet Designer, came to the Center in 2002 after attending the University of Connecticut's Puppet Arts Program, where he developed his M.F.A. project *The Tragic History of the Damnable Life and the Deserved Death of Doctor Faustus*. Von Hinezmeyer has built puppets for such Center productions as *American Tall Tales*, *Dinosaurs* and *Beauty & the Beast*. He has also taught puppet building workshops as part of the Center's Adult Education Series. He created the scrappy puppet punk trio Clobber for *Xperimental Puppetry Theater* in 2002. The group, named "Best Band in Atlanta" by *Stomp and Stammer* magazine, garnered a cult following with performances at art events, clubs and wrestling arenas. Outside of the Center, von Hinezmeyer has worked as a puppet builder for the Emmy award-winning children's show, *Between the Lions*, and participated in Puppet Slams at Dad's Garage Theatre in Atlanta. *Avanti, Da Vinci! The Secret Adventures of Leonardo da Vinci*, which he wrote and directed with Jon Ludwig, sold out its Atlanta premiere in 2004 and traveled to the Slovak Republic, where it became the first U.S. production to be performed at the Bábkarska Bystrica Puppetry Festival.

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